

assistance to the oil seed crushing units for procuring and stocking oil seeds. Oil seed crushing season is estimated at six to eight months in a year.

(c) The estimated number of oil crushing units in the small scale sector and the KVIC sector is around 68,000 and 25,000 respectively.

Threat to Small Entrepreneurs

3001. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present policy of liberalisation and the resultant new trade regime has posed a serious threat to the survival of the small entrepreneurs and the rural and agro industries;

(b) if so, in what manner Government would tackle this situation; and

(c) if answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The small scale sector as a whole has been exposed to greater competition due to globalisation and the resultant new trade regime. To strengthen the small scale sector and to enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, the Government announced a Comprehensive Policy Package on 30th August, 2000 which includes easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.